

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 686

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to name a segment of U.S. Highway 411 in Monroe County in honor of the late Lance Corporal Franklin "Frankie" Namon Watson, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives while serving our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Lance Corporal Franklin "Frankie" Namon Watson, United States Marine Corps, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on September 24, 2011, while serving in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, LCpl. Watson followed the patriotic tradition for which Monroe County and the Volunteer State are renowned by enlisting and serving with distinction in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, LCpl. Watson was serving as a combat engineer charged with the duty of disarming IEDs in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, this brave soldier had also protected and served the public safety as a Madisonville police officer and Monroe County Sheriff's deputy; and

WHEREAS, Frankie Watson will be fondly remembered by his family and many friends for his smile and his ability to light up a room; and

WHEREAS, LCpl. Watson served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, LCpl. Watson's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all

that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Frankie Watson selflessly gave his life while serving his country, and it is thus most appropriate that a segment of highway in his home county should be named to honor his memory; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the segment of U.S. Highway 411 located within the corporate limits of Madisonville in Monroe County is hereby designated the "LCpl. Franklin "Frankie" Namon Watson Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of U.S. Highway 411 described in the first resolving clause as the "LCpl. Franklin "Frankie" Namon Watson Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appellation "LCpl. Franklin "Frankie" Namon Watson Memorial Highway" provided for in this resolution is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of transportation.